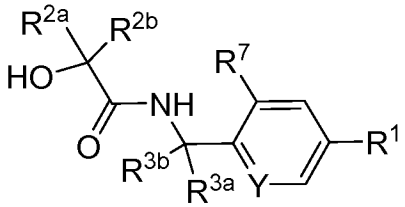
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

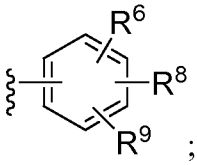


(I)

wherein

Y is N;

R^1 is



;

R^{2a} is selected from (1) a group selected from R^a, (2) $(CH_2)_nNR^bC(O)R^a$, (3) $(CH_2)_nNR^bSO_2R^d$, (4) $(CH_2)_nNR^bCO_2R^a$, (5) $(CH_2)_kCO_2R^a$, and (6) $(CH_2)_kC(O)NR^bR^c$,

R^{2b} is OH or a group selected from R^{2a}; or

R^{2a} and R^{2b} together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups independently selected from halogen, OR^a, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-4} haloalkyl;

R^{3a} and R^{3b} are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{1-4} haloalkyl;

R^6 is optionally substituted 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, and wherein said substituent is 1 to 3 groups independently selected from C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, OR^a or $OC(O)R^a$;

R^7 is selected from hydrogen and halogen;

R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from (1) hydrogen ~~and a group from R^6~~, (2) C_{1-8} alkyl optionally substituted with 1-5 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, COR^a, CO_2R^a, $C(O)NR^bR^c$, OR^a, $OC(O)R^a$, SR^a, SO_2R^d, $S(O)R^d$, NR^bR^c, $NR^bC(O)R^a$, $NR^bSO_2R^d$, and $NR^bCO_2R^a$, (3) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, (4) C_{2-8} alkenyl optionally substituted with CO_2R^a, (5) halogen, (6) cyano, (7) nitro, (8) NR^bR^c, (9) $NR^bC(O)R^a$, (10) $NR^bCO_2R^a$, (11) $NR^bC(O)NR^bR^c$, (12) $NR^bC(O)NR^bCO_2R^a$, (13) $NR^bSO_2R^d$, (14) CO_2R^a, (15) COR^a, (16) $C(O)NR^bR^c$, (17) $C(O)NHOR^a$, (18) $C(=NOR^a)R^a$, (19) $C(=NOR^a)NR^bR^c$, (20) OR^a, (21) $OC(O)R^a$, (22) $S(O)_vR^d$, (23) $SO_2NR^bR^c$, and (24) phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, OR^a, SR^a, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-4} haloalkyl, and (25) OSO_2R^d;

R^a is selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C_{1-7} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, OH, SH, O-C_{1-4}alkyl, or S-C_{1-4}alkyl, (3) $(CH_2)_k$-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OH, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-4}haloalkyl, and (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^b and R^c are independently selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 groups independently selected from halogen, amino, CO_2R^a, OR^a, mono-C_{1-4}alkylamino, and di-C_{1-4}alkylamino, (3) $(CH_2)_k$-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OR^a, CO_2R^a, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-4}haloalkyl, and (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^d is selected from (1) C_{1-4} alkyl, (2) C_{1-4}haloalkyl, (3) C_{1-4} alkyloxy, and (4) $(CH_2)_k$-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OR^a, CO_2R^a, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-4}haloalkyl;

R^e is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C(O)H and C(O)C_{1-4}alkyl;

n is 1, 2, or 3;

k is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4; and

v is 0, 1, or 2.

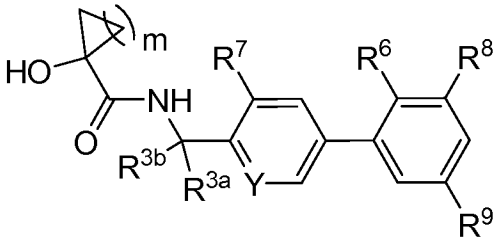
2. (Original) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^{2a}, R^{2b} and the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups independently selected from halogen, OR^a, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-4} haloalkyl.

3 - 4. CANCELED.

5. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^8 is hydrogen or 3-halo, and R^9 is hydrogen or 5-halo.

6 - 7. CANCELED.

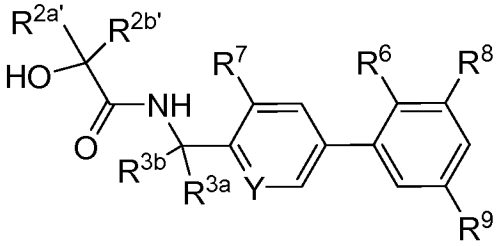
8. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 having the formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(Ia)

wherein m is 1 to 5; Y is N; one of R^{3a} and R^{3b} is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or methyl; R^7 is hydrogen or fluorine; R^6 is 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl; and R^8 and R^9 are independently hydrogen or halogen.

9. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



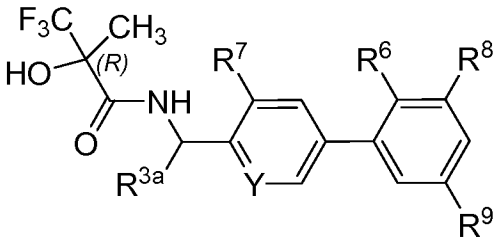
Ib

where R^{3a}, R^{3b}, R^6, R^7, R^8 and R^9 are as defined in Claim 1, and $R^{2a'}$ and $R^{2b'}$ are independently selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C_{1-7} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, SH, OH, S-C_{1-4}alkyl or OC_{1-4}alkyl, (3) $(CH_2)_k$-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OH, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-4}haloalkyl, and (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.

10. (Original) A compound of Claim 9 wherein $R^{2a'}$ and $R^{2b'}$ are independently C_{1-7}alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms.

11. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 10 wherein one of R^{3a} and R^{3b} is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or methyl; R^7 is hydrogen, chlorine or fluorine; and R^8 and R^9 are independently hydrogen or halogen.

12. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim1 having the formula Ic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



Ic

wherein Y is N; R^7 is H, chlorine or fluorine; R^{3a} is H or methyl; R^6 is 1,2,4-isoxazolyl optionally substituted with a C_{1-4}alkyl group; and R^8 and R^9 are independently hydrogen or halogen.

13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14 - 18. CANCELED.

19. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 being (2*R*)-*N*-((1*R*)-1-{5-[5-chloro-3-fluoro-2-(5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)phenyl]-3-fluoropyridin-2-yl}ethyl)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropanamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.